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The Daniel Boone Pageant

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THE PENN PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA

The Daniel Boone Pageant

An Entertainment for Boys in Five Scenes

By

CLIFTON LISLE

Author of "Fair Play," "A Scout's Honor," etc.

PHILADELPHIA

THE PENN PUBLISHING COMPANY

1917

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The Daniel Boone Pageant

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No. 1

The Daniel Boone Pageant

CHARACTERS

DANIEL BOONE (*as a boy*)
DANIEL BOONE (*as a man*) . . *The Kentucky Pioneer*
SQUIRE BOONE . . . . . *Daniel's father*
SARAH BOONE . . . . . *Daniel's mother*
JOHN FINLEY . . . *a trapper who has crossed the Cumberlands*
JUDGE HENDERSON . . *the would-be proprietor of Kentucky*
A WHITE WOODSMAN
AN INDIAN TRAPPER
AN INDIAN CHIEF

Two or three women settlers, several backwoodsmen, trappers, settlers, Indian warriors, etc.

TIME OF PLAYING.—Half an hour.

FOREWORD

It is the purpose here to set forth in pageant form a few of the most striking incidents taken from the life of Daniel Boone. The scenes have been arranged in chronological order and the events of authentic history closely followed. Scenery, costumes, et cetera, are given in detail, but some slight divergence from these will doubtless be necessary in accord with the resources of the various groups of boys producing the pageant. The number of scenes presented, together with the number of players taking part, can be varied in like manner to suit conditions. The scenes can be staged equally well indoors or out owing to the very simple scenery that is needed.

This pageant is especially suited for production by one or several troops of Boy Scouts. If Scouts are giving the pageant, the Epilogue should be used. Otherwise it should be omitted.

OUTLINE OF THE PAGEANT

PROLOGUE.—The reading of a short sketch of Daniel Boone.

SCENE I (a).—Daniel Boone's boyhood in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

(b).—Departure of the Boone family for the Yadkin Country, North Carolina.

SCENE II (a).—The Boones' Yadkin clearing in 1755. Daniel's return after Braddock's defeat. Finley, the trapper of "Cantuck," appears.

(b).—Departure of Boone, Finley, etc., for the Wilderness.

SCENE III (a).—Boone in Kentucky. Trapping in the Blue Grass. Capture by the Indians. Return to the Yadkin.

(b).—Commissioned by Judge Henderson, Boone opens the Wilderness Road and buys Kentucky from the Cherokees at Sycamore Shoals.

SCENE IV (a).—Boonesborough in course of erection.

(b).—Boonesborough in the Indian Wars.

SCENE V (a).—Kentucky being settled. New arrivals after the Revolution. Boone has saved the vast territory of the West for the pioneers of the New Republic.

EPILOGUE.—The Modern Scout.

COSTUMES

DANIEL BOONE (as a boy of ten). Coarse linen shirt, open at the neck. Homespun breeches, belt. Bare feet.

DANIEL BOONE (as a man of thirty-five or forty). Hunting shirt of brown silesia or similar cheap material, reaching almost to the knees, heavily fringed. Fringed trousers of the same goods. Shirt and trousers can easily be made to imitate fringed deerskin, if the seams be made very wide and left on the outside of the suit, having first been cut into thin strips to represent the fringe. Moccasins. Fur cap. An excellent imitation of a fur cap can be made by twisting a woman's narrow fur neckpiece into a circle and fastening it in shape. Knife, tomahawk or ordinary hatchet, bullet-pouch, powder-horn and a very long rifle, if possible.

A small chamois bag is easy to make and serves well as a bullet-pouch. Any rifle will do at a pinch, but the longer it is, the better.

SQUIRE BOONE. Coarse linen shirt, open at the neck, homespun breeches, white stockings, low black shoes. Fur cap.

JUDGE HENDERSON. Low black shoes, white stockings, knee-breeches, blue frock coat, silver buttons. Lace stock, yellow waistcoat. Three-cornered cocked hat. A belt and sword. The coat can be made of any cheap material such as blue chintz, silesia or heavy muslin.

FINLEY (and other trappers). Brown silesia hunting shirts and trousers, well fringed at the seams. Belts, moccasins and fur caps. Same equipment as Daniel Boone.

SETTLERS. Homespun breeches, belts, coarse white stockings, low black shoes, rough linen shirts, open at the neck. Three-cornered hats and fur caps. A Quaker or two in grey coats and plain buttons. Any cheap material will do for the coats—grey silesia, linen, etc.

WOMEN SETTLERS (including Mrs. Boone. Only three or four women in all are needed in this pageant). Plain homespun skirts and waists of any cheap material, preferably of a blue or brown color. The silesia used for the woodsmen would do very well. White muslin kerchiefs about their necks and crossed in front, fastened at the belts. Shawls of any plain sort wrapped around the heads and shoulders, thus avoiding the need of wigs. N. B. It is suggested that younger boys take the part of the Women Settlers.

INDIANS. Brown silesia trousers, heavily fringed at the seams, brown silesia shirts, well fringed and ornamented with gay beads, feathers and trinkets. If desired, let blankets be wrapped about the shoulders, the same costume being worn underneath. Moccasins. Turkey feather headgear, hair tied into scalp-lock at top of head. Ornaments of beads, claws, etc., about the neck. The chiefs have large metal bands on arms above the right elbow. A few have powder-horns, rifles, etc., but most of them have bows, arrows and quivers, all gaily painted and adorned with feathers. All the Indians have tomahawks, hunting knives, etc.

PROPERTIES

Necessary number of firearms, powder-horns, bullet-pouches, tomahawks and hunting knives for all the backwoodsmen and trappers. Of course, flintlocks are historically correct, but any sort of a gun will serve quite well. Air rifles, 22-calibre rifles, shotguns, anything will do, but the longer they are, the better. Any nickel parts should be painted. A few traps and pelts for the trappers. Necessary arms for the Indians, either rifles, etc., or bows, arrows and quivers. Hunting knives, tomahawks or hatchets for all the Indians. Pipe of peace. Cheap ornaments and goods for the Treaty. Bundles and packs for the Settlers. Household gear for the Boone family. Rude wagon with canvas top. Out-of-doors, a real wagon can easily be procured and used. Indoors, the best imitation is made by placing a false top of cloth or canvas upon an ordinary push-cart such as is used by grocers, etc. Let the wheels and one end only appear on the stage. If necessary, conceal any betraying part of the push-cart by the wings, piles of household goods, bushes, etc. In this manner, the small wheel usually found in front can readily be hidden from view. Wooden bucket, wicker basket, pile of horseshoes. British flag. American flag, showing circle of thirteen stars. Spade, an axe or two. Piece of homespun cloth. A few deer heads, if they can be borrowed readily. A knobby stick. The pipe of peace should be a long clay pipe ornamented with a string of gay feathers.

SCENE PLOTS

Scene I (a).—The forge of Squire Boone in Oley Township, County Berks, Pennsylvania. If out-of-doors, let the background be a clump of trees with cedars, bushes or other undergrowth so arranged as to form a screen for the actors before they come on the stage. Thick bushes should also be arranged to serve as wings. If indoors, a similar effect can be had by the use of a woodland drop and wings, together with a green covering for the floor. Any green cloth

background will serve for the drop, if a few real bushes, shrubs, saplings, etc., be placed in front of it. Whether indoors or out, let there be as much real green as possible—growing plants, bushes, vines, etc. Down L., a rude block of wood, quite large, to represent part of the anvil, the forge itself being imagined just off stage in the L. wings. Back of the anvil block, a rough bench or a log squared off to serve as a seat. Near by down L., a wooden pail, a wicker basket, a small pile of horseshoes and a hammer. Hanging from nails driven into a tree trunk are a few steel traps and a pelt or two. A long rifle rests against one of the trees in the rear. Down R., a fallen log to serve as a seat. The settings of this scene can be elaborated, if desired, by the addition of a cabin front in the L. wings, but the anvil block and the forest background and wings are all that are essential.

SCENE I (b).—The same as Scene I (a). A wagon with a canvas top appears half-way down R., between the R. wings. Household goods are piled about the anvil block and in the rear of the wagon. General air of disorder prevails.

SCENE II (a).—The clearing of Squire Boone in the Yadkin Country, North Carolina. The same background, wings, etc., as in Scene I (a). For variety, however, the anvil block should appear in the R. wings and the log seats should be arranged in the rear C. and down L. With these minor exceptions, the fittings are the same as in the former scene. The more pelts, deer heads and horns fastened about the trees in the wings and background, the better will be the effect.

SCENE II (b).—The same as Scene II (a).

SCENE III (a).—The Wilderness Land of Cantuck. Forest background and wings, very dense. Bushes, vines, a fallen log or two here and there about the stage. Indoors or out, this scene is very simple in arrangement, trees and greenery being the only essentials.

SCENE III (b).—The same as for (a). A tree in the background has been blazed, showing the Wilderness Road. N. B. When Boone blazes the trees or saplings in the rear of stage, it is best to have him simply knock off a square piece of bark that has previously been detached from the trunk and then lightly glued into place. This bark can then be refastened on the trunk with more glue whenever it

is desired to reproduce the scene without the blazed trail. Two blazed trees are quite sufficient.

SCENE IV (a).—The frontier fort of Boonesborough. Background and wings of trees as in previous scene, only, if practicable, have the forest background and wings so arranged as to appear rather thinned out in comparison with the preceding Scene III. In L. wings, just off stage, we are to imagine the palisade in process of construction. Down L., the wooden gate of the fort lying on the ground, partly built. A few rough boards nailed with crosspieces at top and bottom will serve very well for the gate. It should be at least six feet high and four or five feet wide. The heavier it looks, the better.

SCENE IV (b).—Boonesborough completed. Background and wings the same as in Scene IV (a). The gate, now finished, appears lying on the ground by L. wings, all ready to be swung in place at the gateway of the stockade which we imagine to be just out of sight in L. wings. A flagpole appears in L. wings near the gate. British flag at the peak.

SCENE V.—The same as Scene IV (b), except the wings are quite clear of brush, so far as practicable, and the forest background has been replaced by one showing a more open, cultivated countryside. Indoors or out, this effect can be had by replacing the background and wings of undergrowth by one made up of corn shocks, haycocks, etc., thus retaining the necessary screen in the rear of stage.

SPOKEN WORDS IN THE PAGEANT

Wherever words appear necessary in the scenes in order to bring out the full meaning of the plot, they may readily be improvised. With careful acting, however, no spoken words are needed. It is suggested that before each scene is produced, a notice be shown the audience or a few words be spoken setting forth the incident about to be portrayed. This should be quite sufficient to make the Pageant clear, as it progresses from part to part.

The Daniel Boone Pageant

THE PROLOGUE.—A bugle sounds reveille behind the scenes. A Woodsman appears before the curtain and reads the short sketch of Daniel Boone, as found at the end of this Pageant. Exit the Woodsman.

SCENE I (a)

SQUIRE BOONE'S ANVIL IN BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.—Squire Boone is discovered standing near his anvil block examining horseshoes one by one and testing them occasionally by striking them sharply with a hammer. He dips one in the bucket of water near by, and strikes it heavily. An Indian trapper enters up R. He carries a bundle of pelts slung over his shoulder. Squatting on the log down R., he opens his pack and displays his skins to Squire Boone, who leaves his smithing and crosses down R. to look at them. Boone picks up a pelt and points at it, asking where it came from. The Indian points at the other pelts, then waves his hand toward the south, as represented by the R. wings. Nods and grunts with approval. They bargain in sign language and Boone finally buys the pelts for a glass-bead necklace and a small quantity of powder and ball which he brings from the cabin supposed to be standing just off stage in L. wings. While they are busy with the trade, young Daniel Boone, aged ten, appears crawling through the bushes up R., evidently stalking the trapper. As the Indian leaves, Daniel crouches low in the bushes. Just as the redskin passes him, Daniel leaps up with a shrill war cry, brandishing a knobby stick above his head. The Indian leaps aside, then nods approvingly at the boy. Exit the Indian up R. Young Daniel comes down L. to his father and proudly shows a squirrel that he

has killed with his knobby stick. Squire Boone pats his son on the head and goes off stage L. Daniel takes a trap from the tree in the rear and tinkers with it, fixing the spring with the hammer lying on the wooden block. Squire Boone enters L., with a small rifle which he gives to the boy. Daniel leaps about in great glee, drawing a bead on imaginary bears and Indians. Squire Boone looks on with a smile, then calls the boy to examine a piece of homespun fresh from the loom. They go off stage L., carrying the bundle of pelts. Squire Boone points to the pelts and then to the south. Daniel cheers, waving his new rifle above his head.

SCENE I (b)

THE DEPARTURE OF THE BOONE FAMILY FOR THE YADKIN COUNTRY IN NORTH CAROLINA.—Squire Boone, Sarah Boone, Daniel, now sixteen years of age, one other woman besides Mrs. Boone, are discovered in the act of loading their wagon for the long journey south. Several neighbors, settlers in their shirt sleeves, woodsmen, a Quaker or two in grey coats, and a couple of women are helping the Boones carry bundles of household goods from the cabin off stage in the L. wings to the canvas-topped wagon half hidden in the R. wings. Pots, pans, cauldrons, bedding, a table, etc., are thus carried across the stage. The Indian trapper with his pelts stands in the rear, occasionally showing his furs to a settler and always nodding toward the Boones with approval, as he points to the south, represented by the R. wings. The last article of gear safely loaded in the wagon, the Boones shake hands all round with their friends and neighbors, then prepare to move off. Sarah Boone and the other woman get in the end of the wagon, if such a thing can be conveniently managed. Otherwise, they simply move off stage into the R. wings. Squire Boone and the Indian go off stage R., as if to drive the team. The Indian keeps pointing ahead and tapping his pelts with approving nods and grunts. Daniel shoulders his gun and takes his place behind the wagon down R. He waves his free hand and the crowd of neighbors wave their hats and cheer. (*N. B. Care must be taken in this scene to have particular deference shown the women by all the backwoodsmen and settlers.*)

SCENE II (a)

THE BOONES' NEW CLEARING ON THE BANKS OF THE YADKIN.—Squire Boone is discovered sitting on a bench by his anvil block down R. He is cleaning a long rifle. A backwoodsman enters from the L. wings. Excitedly waves his arms and begins to describe an Indian fight in which the colonists seem to have had the worst of it. Shows how narrowly he himself escaped being tomahawked and scalped. Old Boone appears worried, gets up and looks anxiously toward the north, as represented by the L. wings. The woodsman goes on with his tale, showing a wound in his arm. Daniel Boone, a full-grown frontiersman now, suddenly enters from the L. wings. Father and son shake hands eagerly. Daniel sits down on the bench by his father and listens to the woodsman's tale. Then he gets up and shows how he, too, has just had an escape. He enacts the scene, showing an arrow that has gone through his coat, how he leaped behind a tree when attacked, how he used his rifle from cover, how he finally slipped away unnoticed in the underbrush and made good his escape. Squire Boone and the woodsman congratulate him. Daniel hands his father the arrow and the old man examines it. Suddenly Daniel gets up and points to the west, as represented by the rear of the stage. He signifies his intention of going there on a hunting trip by picking up a small pelt lying on the bench. He shows the skin to his father, then takes from his pack a much larger pelt of very fine quality. Throwing the smaller one aside with a sneer, Daniel again shows the finer pelt and points west once more. His father tries to dissuade him, but Daniel keeps tapping the pelt and nodding toward the west. The woodsman shows his wound and joins Squire Boone in trying to argue with his son. Daniel smiles and shakes his head. Enter from L. wings, Finley, the trapper. He listens a moment, then comes down R. and shakes Daniel very heartily by the hand. They look at the large pelt together, smile, shake hands again and walk apart, pointing repeatedly to the west. Finley stretches his arms to indicate that Daniel may find a pelt even larger. Daniel taps his rifle. Squire Boone and the woodsman sit down on the bench, shaking their heads in disapproval. Squire Boone keeps looking at the arrow and frowning.

SCENE II (b)

DEPARTURE OF DANIEL BOONE, FINLEY AND FOUR OTHER WOODSMEN FROM THE YADKIN.—The six men are discovered down L. with packs on their backs and rifles in their hands, bidding farewell to Squire Boone, Mrs. Boone and all the other neighbors. Woodsmen, trappers, settlers and one or two women settlers all stand in a group down R., shaking their heads in token of the folly of trying to cross the Cumberlands. A few Indians stand in the background, looking on in silence. One or two show signs of anger, barely concealed. Boone and his men shake hands with their friends and wave farewell, as they move off into the wings, up L. The neighbors, etc., wave their hats, cheer and then turn to talk with Squire Boone and his wife.

SCENE III (a)

DANIEL BOONE IN KENTUCKY.—Daniel Boone is discovered in the wilds of Cantuck, setting his traps and admiring the wonders of the place. He lays aside his rifle to arrange a snare near the root of a tree, up R. Then he picks up a handful of earth and nods approvingly as he lets it sift through his fingers. Several Indians suddenly leap into view from the wings, L. and R. They give a shrill war cry and pounce upon him before he can move. Having bound him and left him lying on the ground down L., they inspect with grunts of approval the pile of pelts he has left up R., near his traps. Boone slips his bonds, regains possession of his rifle, cuts the bowstrings of three of the Indians and makes good his escape by L. wings, while the savages are busy with the furs up R. They discover his escape and give chase.

SCENE III (b)

AGAIN IN KENTUCKY. OPENING THE FAMOUS WILDERNESS ROAD.—Boone and two fellow woodsmen are discovered moving slowly from the L. wings. As they advance, they blaze a mark on a tree or two to their right hand by knocking off a piece of bark that has previously been detached from the trunk and replaced with glue. One of the men cuts down some bushes as he moves forward or drags a log to one side. They are blazing "Boone's Way," or opening the famous Wilderness Road. While at work, they hear

approaching footsteps and stop to listen, gazing back along the Wilderness Road, into the L. wings. Judge Henderson enters, L., at the head of a band of woodsmen, trappers and a few settlers. He examines the blazes on the trees, notes the bush being cleared away and nods at Boone to show approval of the work done. The men all begin to clear the way, etc. Enter several Indians and a chief, R. wings. The whites stop work and look at the Indians, who appear quite hostile. The chief motions angrily at the work done, then points to the L. in sign that the whites must go. Henderson consults with Boone. Whites stand rifles in hand. Boone nods and speaks to the chief, who still insists on their departure. Boone argues with the chief. They go to centre of stage and motion to the other Indians. The whites group themselves about Henderson and Boone. Boone C. L., the chief C. R., talk by signs, etc. They bargain. Boone shows the country by waving his arm in a great circle, then holds out a bag of money given him by Henderson. The chief weighs it in his hand and shakes his head angrily. Indians grunt and shake their heads. Cheap ware, old guns, beads, etc., are brought forward. Boone shows a pelt and spade, pointing at the settlers in token of hunting and farming rights for the whites. More goods are added, and a little powder. Lengthy bargaining. The Indians grunt favorably. The chief nods assent to the agreement. A pipe of peace is produced and the chief, Boone and Judge Henderson puff at it in turn. All shake hands in token of the Treaty of Sycamore Shoals. The settlers cheer and begin at once to clear away the brush and chop at the trees.

SCENE IV (a)

THE BUILDING OF BOONESBOROUGH.—Daniel Boone, old Squire Boone, Finley, Henderson, trappers, woodsmen and a very few settlers with a woman or two among them are discovered clearing away the brush, chopping at fallen logs and carrying timbers off stage L. to be placed in the new stockade. A few are planting Indian corn in the rear of stage among the trees. Two or three are hammering at the great wooden gate, lying half finished on the ground near the L. wings. A woodsman rushes in from the R. wings. They all stop work and gather round while he gesticulates, pointing behind him excitedly. He shows a

wound in his arm, always pointing to the R. wings. Two men snatch up guns and rush off stage in the direction he is pointing. They return on the run with a wounded man. Great confusion at once breaks out. Some try to gather up their packs and make good their escape from the fort. Boone drives them back to the tasks of planting corn, chopping logs, etc. He himself picks up a large sledge and runs to finish the gate. Some seize their rifles and stand guard in the wings and background. They start to raise the gate into place. Another fugitive rushes in, exhausted, with a wound in his head. He points behind him to show the Indians are almost at hand. They drop the gate on the ground and all hurry off stage L., as if to enter the palisade which is supposed to stand just out of sight in the L. wings.

SCENE IV (b)

BOONESBOROUGH BESIEGED (*same setting as in "a"*).—The settlers are closely beset by Indians, who are darting about among the trees and bushes of the R. wings and background, discharging arrows or firing rifles against the hidden palisade, supposed to be off L. They utter shrill war cries continually. The woodsmen, off stage L., reply bravely by firing as quickly as they can. Suddenly a sortie is made from the fort. Half a dozen woodsmen rush out from the L. wings and take cover behind fallen logs, bushes, etc. The Indians at once retreat a short distance to R. wings. Half a dozen more woodsmen appear running from the fort in the L. wings. They seize the finished gate, lying on the ground down L., and bear it off in triumph into the L. wings, shielding themselves behind it, as they go, from a storm of arrows. The covering party of woodsmen behind the bushes, etc., retreat to the fort in good order. Loud cheering from the wings, off stage L. Indians attack closely once more. At last, after repeated charges, war cries, attempts to pile brush against the stockage off stage L., etc., the Indians are beaten off. The woodsmen come out from L. wings, some binding up their wounds, others cleaning their rifles. They count the Indian dead and give a cheer.

SCENE V

BOONESBOROUGH A GROWING FRONTIER TOWN.—Settlers are discovered coming from the R. wings, carrying their

packs and household goods on their backs. They cross the stage and pass into the L. wings as if to enter the gate of the fort, just off stage L. Mrs. Boone, the younger, Daniel's wife, is among them, together with three or four other women settlers. (*N. B. As the younger Mrs. Boone has no particular part to play in the pageant, she has not been listed as a separate character. The women settlers are required only to pass across the stage or to stand in the groups of settlers here and there about the stage.*) Down L., just out from the L. wings, a group of woodsmen, trappers and other settlers eagerly welcome the newcomers, picking out their own friends and relatives and talking excitedly with them, pointing out the corn, the fort in the wings, etc. A few Indians stand in the background. A woodsman suddenly appears among the settlers in the R. wings. He crosses down L., and speaks eagerly to Boone, who has been standing idly by the gate near the flagpole in the L. wings. Boone has been talking with the new settlers, his long rifle in the bend of his right arm. Boone smiles at the man's words and beckons to the other woodsmen. They gather round him, then suddenly cheer loudly.

Boone tosses his fur cap high into the air and runs to the flagstaff near by. He pulls on the cords. The flag of England comes floating slowly down the pole. All are silent. The messenger opens his hunting shirt and takes out a small bundle, handing it to Boone. Boone fastens it to the cords and breaks out the flag of the New Republic. The circle of thirteen stars and the red and white stripes wave for the first time above a fort west of the mountains. Kentucky has been won for the Union.

Settlers, their wives, woodsmen, trappers, everybody in and about the place cheer frantically, wave their hats, guns, etc. Even the Indians grunt and show some slight interest by starting a sort of war dance in the rear. All crowd around Boone, shake him by the hand, slap him on the back and make much of him. Boone shakes them off good naturedly. Then seeing his wife among the women settlers, he goes over and takes her by the hand, leading her off stage L. as if into the fort. As he passes the flag, he stops a moment and salutes, all the settlers, woodsmen, etc., standing bareheaded. They make a lane to the gate for Boone to pass through. Exit Boone and his wife, L., the woodsmen, etc., presenting arms, waving their hats and

showing their appreciation in other ways that show more heart than military discipline. Woodsmen, settlers, etc., give a rousing cheer for the flag.

(*A bugle sounds taps off stage.*)

EPILOGUE

If a Troop of Boy Scouts are producing the Pageant, the following Epilogue should be read. Otherwise, it should be omitted.

A bugle sounds reveille, followed by the Scout Call, off stage. A Boy Scout in uniform (*shorts in preference to breeches*) appears in the scene last portrayed. He reads as follows:

"Scout Hand Book, page X: 'A Scout.' He enjoys a hike through the woods more than he does over the city's streets. He can tell north or south or east or west by the 'signs.' He can tie a knot that will hold, he can swim a river, he can pitch a tent, he can mend a tear in his trousers, he can tell you which fruits and seeds are poisonous and which are not, he can sight nut-bearing trees from a distance. A Scout walks through the woods with silent tread. No dry twigs snap under his feet and no loose stones turn over and throw him off his balance. His eyes are keen and he sees many things that others do not see. He sees tracks and signs that reveal to him the nature and habits of the creatures that made them. He knows how to stalk birds and animals and study them in their natural haunts. He sees much, but is little seen.

"A Scout, like an old frontiersman, does not shout his wisdom from the housetops. He speaks softly and answers questions modestly. A Scout can kindle a fire in the forest on the wettest day, and he seldom uses more than one match. He knows, also, the danger of forest fires and he kindles a blaze that will not spread. A Scout practices self-control, for he knows that men who master problems in the world must first master themselves. He keeps a close guard on his temper, on his tongue, on his appetite. He never uses alcoholic liquors; he avoids tobacco. A Scout prides himself upon doing 'good turns,' and no day in his life is complete unless he has been of aid to some person. A Scout is a patriot, and is always ready to serve his country at a mo-

ment's notice. He loves Old Glory and knows the proper forms of offering respect to it.

"A Scout chooses as his motto 'Be Prepared,' and he seeks to prepare himself for anything—to rescue a companion, to ford a stream, to gather fire-wood, to help strangers, to distinguish right from wrong, to serve his fellow men, his country and his God—always to 'Be Prepared.'"

(*Exit the Scout. A bugle sounds taps off stage.*)

CURTAIN

The Life of Daniel Boone

Daniel Boone, the pioneer backwoodsman of Kentucky, the man who opened the far-famed Wilderness Road to the West, was by birth a native of the County of Berks, Pennsylvania. He was born in Oley Township on the 2d of November, 1734. Daniel's parents, Squire Boone and Sarah Morgan, his wife, were themselves hardy pioneers striving to win a living in the midst of what was at that time the extreme backwoods of Pennsylvania. Here, in the Valley of the Schuylkill, the Boone family had set themselves the task of felling the forest trees, burning out the stumps, planting Indian corn and rearing a rude cabin of logs. As time went on, a farm grew up where the first rough clearing had been. Squire Boone had brought his old father out from England by this time, a blacksmith by trade. Soon smithing together with weaving were added to the work of cultivating the fields.

Amid such surroundings young Daniel Boone passed his early boyhood. So far as can be known, he never attended a regular school, but picked up at his mother's knee what little he knew of reading and writing. In other ways, however, he learned much that was to prove invaluable in later life. From the half dozen looms at work in his father's cabins he learned how homespun was made. At the forge, he caught the trick of handling iron, how to make and mend traps, or repair a broken flintlock. Daniel's greatest pleasure, though, was to roam far and wide about the hills and mountains near his home in search of game. He explored Penn's Mount, Neversink, the Hopewell Hills. He canoed down the winding Schuylkill past the hills of Valley Forge to Philadelphia, carrying to market the furs he had won by skilful trapping. It is said he received his first rifle when about ten years of age. Before that, he used to go hunting with a knobby stick and many a squirrel and chipmunk, 'possum and coon, fell before his clever hurling. Patience seems to have been a striking trait of the boy. He would spend hours in tracking a deer or bear and, what is more, he nearly always got it in the end.

The redskin was ever a subject of intense interest to young

Boone. Thanks to Penn's Treaty, the frontier homes of Pennsylvania were free from attack, but Indian trappers, guides and warriors journeying to the great councils of the north were a common enough sight in Oley Township. Daniel Boone never missed a chance of studying their ways. By the time he was sixteen, he could stalk them for miles unseen, had watched them hunting, had learned crafty forest wiles and tricks, in fact, had picked up more genuine lore of the savage than most of the old backwoodsmen of the neighborhood had been able to learn in all their lives. This early training alone made possible his unequaled success as an Indian fighter in after life.

The Boones moved from Berks County in 1750, journeying by wagon-train down into the Valley of Virginia until they reached the Forks of the Yadkin River in North Carolina, where they set about making a new home. Here Daniel found a hunter's paradise and made the most of it, gaining greater skill than ever with his rifle. In 1755, he had his first real taste of Indian warfare, volunteering in Braddock's unfortunate expedition against Fort Duquesne. Against his wishes, Boone was made a waggoner and mechanic, thanks to his knowledge of smithing. He escaped with his life from the carnage of Turtle Creek by galloping off on one of his own wagon horses. The importance of this campaign, however, so far as Boone was concerned, lay in the friendship he made with a trapper named John Finley, also soldiering under Braddock. Finley had hunted in a wonderful new country across the Laurel Ridge or Cumberland Mountains, then the western boundary for the colonists. His stirring tales of the place, its marvelous beauty, richness of soil, abundance of buffalo, deer, game of all kinds, big and small, so fired Boone that he determined sooner or later to visit it for himself.

It was not until May 1, 1769, however, that Boone actually left off his hunting, farming and exploring about the Yadkin Country and set forth with five companions to seek and spy out the "dark and bloody land of Cantuck," as he called it. They crossed the mountain ridge through Cumberland Gap and reached their destination after many hardships. For about two years, Daniel Boone remained there, hunting, trapping and studying the lay of the land. Now and again he was captured by the Indians, some of his companions returned home across the mountains, one disap-

peared never again to be seen or heard of. After a full year's work all Boone's furs were stolen. The same fate met him after the second year, for Indians fell upon the little party and carried off all their pelts just as they were nearing home, fondly imagining themselves safely over Cumberland Gap. Boone had learned much, however, during his last year alone in the wild cane-brakes of Kentucky. He had seen the great possibilities of the place, and what settlers could make of it if they could get there in sufficient numbers.

The rest of Boone's life was largely spent in opening up the door to that vast region he had first seen on his hunting trip with Finley. The blazing of the Wilderness Road over the Cumberland Gap to the heart of the present Blue Grass Country of Kentucky began in 1775. In the next twenty years, seventy-five thousand pioneers traveled along it, although only then did it become open to wagon travel. The purchase of Kentucky from the Cherokee Indians by Judge Richard Henderson at Sycamore Shoals was largely due to Boone's labor in exploring the land. On this occasion Boone acted as Henderson's representative in his treaty with the Indian chiefs. Boonesborough, the palisaded outpost of the new frontier, was built. Other hamlets sprang up. Long Indian wars followed. Massacre succeeded massacre, siege followed siege, but Boone kept up the fight, ever pressing westward and driving the Indians further back across the Ohio, across the Tennessee.

In his old age, broken by poverty, robbed by the new settlers of lands rightfully his, men whose very existence in Kentucky he alone had made possible, Daniel Boone turned his back on the spot he loved and moved into Tennessee, where he passed the rest of his days leading the care-free life of a trapper once more. He died in 1820, content in spite of all his losses in Kentucky. As he once quaintly remarked, it was too crowded for him there. He wanted more elbow-room. Thus passed away in his eighty-sixth year the man who said and truthfully said :—"The history of the western country has been my history."

Daniel Boone will ever be remembered as one of the most daring pioneers the world has known. Soldier, lawmaker, road-builder, Indian fighter, he lived and died a scout of the nineteenth century, an example of all that was best in the American backwoodsman.

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